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Letter dated 15 March 2006 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

As you are aware, the mandate of my Special Representative for the Great Lakes Region, Ibrahima Fall, will expire at the end of the month. In close cooperation with the African Union and with the support of the Group of Friends of the Great Lakes Region, my Special Representative has contributed significantly to the process of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, which represents an important step forward towards confidence-building and the consolidation of peace and security in the region.

Security Council resolution 1653 (2006) "encourages [the countries of the region], in partnership with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and other stakeholders, to finalize the preparations for the second Summit to be held in Nairobi". Depending on the timely holding of elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the second summit is expected to be held in September 2006.

In view of the above, it is my intention to extend the mandate of my Special Representative for the Great Lakes Region until 30 September 2006. I should be grateful if you would bring this matter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

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